



Legislative Bulletin.....October 15, 2007

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today

Total Number of New Government Programs: 4

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$38 .5 million in FY 2008 and \$268 million over the FY 2008 through FY 2012 period.

Effect on Revenue: 0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 1

Total New Private Sector Mandates:

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 7

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.Res. 624 — Congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history (*Hastings, D-FL*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 624 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 15, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 624 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “congratulates Mr. Ron Adam, Israel’s Chair of the United Nations Committee on Program and Coordination, and the Government and people of the State of Israel on Israel’s first ever appointment to chair a United Nations committee;
- “supports continued expansion of Israel’s role at the United Nations;
- “welcomes recent attempts by the United Nations to address the issue of prevailing anti-Semitism;
- “calls on the United Nations to officially and publicly condemn anti-Semitic statements made at all United Nations meetings and hold accountable United Nations Member States that make such statements;
- “urges the members of WEOG to extend full and permanent membership to Israel, without conditions, until such time as Israel can serve as an effective member of the Asian States Group; and
- “calls upon United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to work to end any unfair vilification of Israel at the United Nations and to use his good offices to support Israel’s bid to join the Asian regional grouping.”

The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “the State of Israel is the only member of the Western and Others Group in a conditional status limiting its ability to caucus with its fellow members of this regional grouping, compete for open seats, or to run for positions in major bodies of the United Nations, such as the Security Council, or United Nations-affiliated agencies, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council;
- “Israel is excluded from discussions and consultations of the Western and Others Group at the United Nations offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Rome, and Vienna;
- “Israel has been refused admission to the Asian Group of the United Nations, thereby being denied the rights and privileges of full membership in the United Nations;
- “in January 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution condemning any denial of the Holocaust; and
- “Israel’s first unique appointment to chair a United Nations committee will hopefully encourage the normalization of Israel’s bilateral and multilateral relations and challenge future disproportionate United Nations condemnation of Israel.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 624 was introduced on August 4, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up on September 26, 2007 and reported the resolution, as amended, by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. ____ — Condemning the campaign of murder, terror and intimidation aimed at overthrowing the democratically elected government of Lebanon and condemning efforts by some Lebanese political figures to obstruct, delay and impede the legal and established processes of their country for the selection of a new president according to the rule of law (*Ackerman, D-NY*)

Order of Business: H.Res. ____ is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 15, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. ____ would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “condemns the campaign of murder, terror, and intimidation aimed at overthrowing the democratically-elected government of Lebanon and establishing a new Lebanese government subservient to the will and interests of Syria and Iran;
- “condemns Syria and Iran for their gross interference in Lebanon’s internal political affairs, and particularly, the selection of a new president, and gross violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions protective of Lebanon’s sovereignty and independence;
- “condemns Lebanese political parties and actors who have allied themselves with Syria and Iran to the detriment of their own country and its national interests;
- “condemns efforts by some Lebanese political figures to obstruct, delay, and impede the legal and established processes of their country for the selection of a new president according to the rule of law;
- “affirms its continued strong support for Lebanon’s democratically-elected government, people and national sovereignty, and its readiness to provide material support;
- “calls on all nations to recognize and support Lebanon’s sovereignty and independence; and
- “urges the President to use all peaceful means at the disposal of the United States to help safeguard Lebanon’s sovereignty and independence.”

The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “in 2004, Lebanon’s current president had his term extra-legally extended through the interference of Syria in Lebanon’s internal affairs;
- “former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, the leading opponent of continued Syrian domination of Lebanon and the extra-legal extension of the president’s term, was assassinated along with 22 people by a massive car bomb on February 14, 2005;
- “investigators from the United Nations have suggested that officials of Syria’s government, at the highest levels, appear to be culpable for the assassination of Rafiq Hariri and the 22 other people;
- “Syria and Iran, through their Lebanese proxies, have demanded the selection of another Lebanese president hand-picked by the Government of Syria; and
- “a sovereign and independent Lebanon is in the national security interest of the United States.

Committee Action: H.Res. ____ is expected to be introduced on Monday, October 15, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.Con.Res. 25 — Expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber (*Peterson, D-MN*)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 25 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 15, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 25 would resolve that it is the sense of the House:

- “that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, **the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States** and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “the United States has a quantity of renewable energy resources that is sufficient to supply a significant portion of the energy needs of the United States;
- “the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States can help ensure a sustainable domestic energy system;
- “accelerated development and use of renewable energy technologies provide numerous benefits to the United States, including improved national security, improved balance of payments, healthier rural economies, improved environmental quality, and abundant, reliable, and affordable energy for all citizens of the United States;
- “increased energy production from domestic renewable resources would attract substantial new investments in energy infrastructure, create economic growth, develop new jobs for the citizens of the United States, and increase the income for farm, ranch, and forestry jobs in the rural regions of the United States;
- “increased use of renewable energy is practical and can be cost effective with the implementation of supportive policies and proper incentives to stimulate markets and infrastructure; and
- “public policies aimed at enhancing renewable energy production and accelerating technological improvements will further reduce energy costs over time and increase market demand.”

Additional Information: According to House Report [110 – 344](#), an amendment was offered in committee to state that the “market is best suited to determine which forms of renewable energy are the most effective and efficient.” After a second amendment was offered to strike the word “best” from the first amendment, further discussion took place and the original amendment was withdrawn. The resolution was then reported favorably by voice vote.

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 25 was introduced on January 10, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources. On May 17, 2007, the Committee on Agriculture held a mark-up and reported it by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 2089 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the “Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office” (*Jefferson, D-LA*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, October 15, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2089 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the “Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office.”

Committee Action: H.R. 2089 was introduced on May 1, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by unanimous consent on September 20, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 2089 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 3297 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 950 West Trenton Avenue in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, as the “Nate DeTample Post Office Building” (Murphy, D-PA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, October 15, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3297 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 950 West Trenton Avenue in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, as the “Nate DeTample Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: Army Pfc. Nate DeTample, of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, was killed by enemy small arms fire while investigating a rocket-propelled grenade attack in Bayil, Iraq, in August, 2005. A member of the ROTC, DeTample had just completed his first semester of classes at Shippensburg University when he was deployed to Iraq in April of 2005. He was 19 years old.

Committee Action: H.R. 3297 was introduced on August 1, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by unanimous consent on September 20, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 3297 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 3572 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4320 Blue Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri, as the “Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building” (*Cleaver, D-MO*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, October 15, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3572 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4320 Blue Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri, as the “Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: Pastor Wallace S. Hartsfield has served at the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, since 1972. Before his tenure at Metropolitan Baptist, Hartsfield served churches in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Kansas. He has served as the vice-president and chairman of the Economic Development Commission of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.

Committee Action: H.R. 3572 was introduced on September 18, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by unanimous consent on October 4, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 3572 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 20 — Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act (*Rush, D-IL*)

Order of Business: H.R. 20 is expected to be considered on Monday, October 15, 2007, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 20 would authorize “such sums” as necessary to expand the scope of the National Institute of Health’s activities relating to postpartum conditions. The bill would also authorize a new grant program to support and enhance postpartum care.

H.R. 20 would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of NIH, to expand and intensify programs to expand the understanding of the causes of, and to find a cure for, postpartum conditions and postpartum psychosis. The bill would require the director to support basic and specific research, improved diagnostic techniques, clinical research, and education programs.

H.R. 20 would also **establish a new grant program**, to provide for projects for the delivery of essential services to individuals with postpartum depression or postpartum psychosis and their families. The grants would be used to enhance outpatient and home-based health services, enhance inpatient care, and to improving the quality, availability, and organization of health care and support service.

Additional Information: According to findings listed in the bill, postpartum depression is a devastating mood disorder which affects many women before and after pregnancy. The findings report that more than 400,000 women suffer postpartum depression in one form or another annually. According to the bill, the specific causes of postpartum depression are “complex and unknown at this time; however, theories include a steep and rapid drop in hormone levels after childbirth; difficulty during labor or pregnancy; a premature birth; a miscarriage; feeling overwhelmed, uncertain, frustrated or anxious about one's new role as a mother; a lack of support from one's spouse, friends or family; marital strife; stressful events in life such as death of a loved one, financial problems, or physical or mental abuse; a family history of depression or mood disorders; a previous history of major depression or anxiety; or a prior postpartum depression.”

Committee Action: H.R. 20 was introduced on January 4, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce’s Subcommittee on Health on February 2. July 19, 2007, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was forwarded to the full committee, which reported the bill by voice vote on September 27, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayer: According to CBO, H.R. 20 authorizes “such sums” as necessary to carry out the programs in the bill and would like cost \$3 million in FY 2008 and \$18 million over the FY 2008 – FY 2012 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, it creates a new grant program to support health care for women with postpartum depression.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee

reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 2295 — ALS Registry Act (*Engel, D-IL*)

Order of Business: H.R. 2295 is expected to be considered on Monday, October 15, 2007, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2295 would require the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop a system to collect data on ALS and other motor neuron disorders and establish a national registry for the collection and storage of such data. The CDC would also be required to compile information regarding the age, race ethnicity and geographic locations of ALS patients along with any environmental or occupational or family issues that could be related to the disease.

The bill would also require the CDC to establish an advisory panel on the ALS registry and would require the panel to submit a report regarding the registry within one year.

H.R. 2295 would **authorize \$25 million in FY 2008 and \$16 million annually through 2012 for these purposes.**

Additional Information: According to findings listed in the bill, “more than 5,000 individuals in the United States are diagnosed with ALS annually and as many as 30,000 individuals may be living with ALS in the United States today. Studies have found relationships between ALS and environmental and genetic factors, but those relationships are not well understood.” Furthermore, “several ALS disease registries and databases exist in the United States and throughout the world, including the SOD1 database, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke repository, and the Department of Veterans Affairs ALS Registry. However, a single national system to collect and store information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS in the United States does not exist.

Committee Action: H.R. 20 was introduced on January 4, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce’s Subcommittee on Health on February 2. July 19, 2007, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was forwarded to the full committee, which reported the bill by voice vote on September 27, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayer: According to CBO, H.R. 2295 would authorize \$25 million in FY 2008 and \$89 million over the FY 2008 – FY 2012 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, it would create a new federal registry for data related to ALS.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

**H.R. 1727 — Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act
(*Baldwin, D-WI*)**

Order of Business: H.R. 1727 is expected to be considered on Monday, October 15, 2007, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1727 would amend the Public Health Service Act to permit the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), acting through the Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, to:

- expand and coordinate NIH activities on paralysis research;
- to award grants to plan, establish, improve, and provide basic operating support for Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Research Consortia;
- educate and disseminate information and receive public comment on NIH programs and research regarding paralysis;
- expand and coordinate NIH research with implications for enhancing daily function for persons with paralysis; and
- make grants to plan, establish, improve, and provide basic operating support for multicenter clinical trial networks to design clinical rehabilitation intervention protocols and measures of outcomes on paralysis.

Authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services, through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to study the health challenges associated with paralysis and other physical disabilities. In addition, this bill authorizes the Secretary to award grants for activities related to paralysis, including to:

- establish paralysis registries; and
- disseminate information to the public.

This bill requires that three reports be submitted to Congress regarding activities of the NIH regarding paralysis research, research activities for enhancing daily function for persons with paralysis, and the results of evaluations done by the HHS through the CDC.

H.R. 1727 authorizes “such sums” for three new grant programs. These grants may be awarded to public or nonprofit private entities and will cover all or part of the costs associated with the operation and/or establishment of research programs and consortia.

Committee Action: H.R. 1727 was introduced on March 28, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On September 27, 2007, the Committee on Energy and Commerce reported the bill, amended in the nature of a substitute, by a voice vote.

Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that this bill authorizes “such sums” for the creation of three new grant programs to public and nonprofit private organizations.

Cost to Taxpayer: According to the CBO, H.R. 1727 would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million a year for FY 2008 - FY 2011 for the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). In addition, “H.R. 1727 would also authorize the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to award grants for the cost of planning, establishing, improving, and providing basic operating support to consortia focused on paralysis research and for multicenter networks focused on paralysis rehabilitation. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$10 million in 2008 and \$93 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts.”

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, it authorizes three new grant programs for the cost of planning, establishing, improving, and providing basic operating support to consortia focused on paralysis research and for multicenter networks focused on paralysis rehabilitation.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report was available at press time.

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H.Con.Res. 133 — Supporting the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week (*Herseeth Sandlin, D-SD*)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 133 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 15, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 133 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “supports the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week;
- “encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue working to educate people in the United States about long-term care; and
- “urges the people of the United States to recognize such a week as an opportunity to learn more about the potential risks and costs associated with long-term care and the options available to help meet their long-term care needs.”

The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “in 2005 the Government Accountability Office projected that by 2040 the number of individuals in the age group of individuals who are 85 years of age or older, which it finds is the age group most likely to require long-term care services, is projected to increase more than 250 percent from 4,300,000 individuals in 2000 to 15,400,000 individuals;
- “AARP reports that an estimated 44,400,000 individuals who are 18 years of age or older provide unpaid care to another adult and others have estimated the value of such unpaid services to be approximately \$257 billion annually;
- “advance planning by family members will help to protect caregivers' health, financial security, and quality of life;
- “our Nation’s long term care challenges will significantly impact women, who make up more than 58 percent of people in the United States who are 65 years of age and older, and greater than two-thirds of people in the United States who are 85 years of age and older;
- “encouraging people in the United States to anticipate and plan for their future long-term care needs will help them achieve greater health and financial security, as well as greater independence, choice, and control over the services they need in the setting of their choice; and
- “long term care awareness week has been observed during the first full week in November, which in 2007 will be the week of November 4th through 10th.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 133 was introduced on April 26, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On April 30, 2007, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Health, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 448 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Cancer Research Month, and for other purposes (*Matheson, D-UT*)

Order of Business: H. Res. 448 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 15, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Res. 448 would resolve that it is the sense of the House that:

- “there should be established a National Cancer Research Month to support the American Association for Cancer Research in public education efforts to make cancer research a national and international priority so that one day the disease of cancer will be relegated to history; and
- “the House of Representatives
 - “congratulates the American Association for Cancer Research on its 100-year anniversary: ‘A Century of Leadership in Science--A Future of Cancer Prevention and Cures’;
 - “recognizes the invaluable contributions made by the American Association for Cancer Research and its quest to prevent and cure cancer and save lives through cancer research; and
 - “expresses the gratitude of the people of the United States for the American Association for Cancer Research's contributions and the progress in advancing cancer research.”

The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “the American Association for Cancer Research, the oldest and largest scientific cancer research organization in the United States, was founded on May 7, 1907, at the Willard Hotel in Washington, DC, by a group of physicians and scientists interested in research to further the investigation and spread new knowledge about cancer;
- “the American Association for Cancer Research is focused on every aspect of high-quality, innovative cancer research and is the authoritative source of information and publications about advances in the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer;
- “our national investment in cancer research has yielded substantial returns in terms of research and advances and lives saved, with a scholarly estimate that every 1-percent decline in cancer mortality saves our national economy \$500,000,000,000;
- “more than 60 percent of all cancer occurs in people over the age of 65, and issues relating to the interface of aging and cancer, ranging from the most basic science questions to epidemiologic relationships to clinical and health services research issues, are of concern to society; and
- “the American Association for Cancer Research is proactively addressing these issues paramount to our aging population through a Task Force on Cancer and Aging, special conferences, and other programs which engage the scientific community in response to this demographic imperative.”

Committee Action: H. Res. 448 was introduced on May 24, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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**H.Con.Res. 182 — Recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, supporting the goals and ideals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week, and for other purposes
(Deal, R-GA)**

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 182 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 15, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 182 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis;
- “supports the work of advocates and organizations in educating, supporting, and providing hope for individuals who suffer from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, including efforts to organize a National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week;
- “supports the designation of an appropriate week as National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week;
- “welcomes the issuance of a proclamation designating a National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week;
- “congratulates advocates and organizations for their efforts to educate the public about idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, while funding research to help find a cure for this disorder; and
- “supports the goals and ideals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week.”

The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a serious lung disorder causing progressive, incurable lung scarring;
- “idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is one of about 200 disorders called interstitial lung diseases;
- “idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is the most common form of interstitial lung disease;
- “idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and generally fatal disease marked by progressive scarring of the lungs, causing an irreversible loss of the lung tissue's ability to transport oxygen;

- “idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis progresses quickly, often causing disability or death within a few short years;
- “there is no proven cause of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis;
- “the median survival rate for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients is 2 to 3 years; about two-thirds of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients die within 5 years; and approximately 40,000 patients die each year; and
- “a need has been identified to increase awareness and detection of this misdiagnosed and under diagnosed disorder as well as all incarnations of pulmonary fibrosis.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 182 was introduced on July 12, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.Res. 524 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to Diamond-Blackfan Anemia (*McCarthy, D-NY*)

Order of Business: H. Res. 524 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 15, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Res. 524 would resolve that:

- “The House of Representatives—
 - “recognizes that the identification of Diamond-Blackfan Anemia (in this resolution referred to as ‘DBA’) as the first human disorder with a ribosomal deficiency is a primary example of the importance of the Federal Government's continued support of DBA research, which may advance the understanding of the basic mechanisms that affect red cell production, identify connections of ribosomal function and cell cycle production, identify implications of cancer predisposition, and serve as an important model for understanding human development and the molecular basis for certain birth defects;
 - “recognizes that Federal support of comprehensive centers for rare disease patients enhances the ability for experienced doctors to provide the most complete care for each patient, leading to an increase in correct and early diagnosis and the most appropriate treatment for each patient;

- “commends Schneider Children’s Hospital for providing the first DBA Comprehensive Clinical Care Center for patients across the country, for developing the DBA Patient Registry which has proven a robust surveillance tool to understand the epidemiology, biology, and treatment of DBA, and for proving a valuable resource for investigators at a national level, working to understand DBA's link to more prevalent disorders facing Americans; and
 - “commends the Daniella Maria Arturi Foundation and the Diamond-Blackfan Anemia Foundation for their efforts to facilitate the successful collaboration among the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to achieve a successful multidisciplinary approach between clinical and scientific DBA efforts with the goal of shortening the life cycle of success realized between the laboratory and applied patient care; and
- “it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government has a responsibility to—
- “encourage further efforts to clarify the natural history of DBA to—
 - “advance hematopoietic research in the area of bone marrow failure disorders;
 - “develop a well-characterized database of patients linked to a cell and DNA repository to facilitate gene discovery;
 - “understand the cellular and molecular biology of DBA;
 - “understand the links to cancer and birth defects; and
 - “provide models for preclinical gene therapy trials;
 - “continue efforts to raise awareness and ease access to information about DBA among patient groups and the medical community to improve accuracy of diagnosis and identification of appropriate treatment options available;
 - “encourage research efforts that will advance the treatment options available to patients with DBA and seek a cure;
 - “encourage the National Institutes of Health to develop a cross-institutional research initiative to study ribosomal protein deficiencies in rare inherited disease, including DBA, among the relevant institute stakeholders interested in ribosome synthesis including—
 - “the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute;
 - “the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; and
 - “the National Cancer Institute; and
 - **“encourage the continued Federal support of the DBA Comprehensive Clinical Care Centers to further provide a definitive characterization of the patients with DBA,** which will expand research and clinical care in order to help manage this rare illness, while also enabling hematologists, cancer researchers, geneticists, basic scientists, and others to continue to utilize the Center to enhance the study of this disease to better understand

its links to many other problems facing Americans relating to blood cell formation, cancer predisposition, birth defects, and more.

The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “Diamond-Blackfan Anemia (‘DBA’) is a rare genetic bone marrow failure disorder affecting children and adults, 90 percent of whom are younger than 1 year of age when they are diagnosed, and results in severe anemia due to failure to produce red blood cells;
- “individuals and families suffering with rare diseases such as DBA not only face the challenges of their debilitating and life-threatening diseases, but must also confront the unfair consequences of their rare disease status, which often means limited research is being done and treatment options may not be optimal;
- “the successful establishment of the DBA Comprehensive Clinical Care Center at Schneider Children’s Hospital became a model for how to diagnose, treat, and improve the lives of patients with rare diseases, while learning from the disorder to yield advancements in other areas of disease research; and
- “the collaboration achieved through the federally supported DBA initiatives within the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and their close collaboration with the Daniella Maria Arturi Foundation and the DBA Foundation have driven the many recent successes in the DBA field and serve as a model for addressing rare disease research efforts through close public and private collaboration to achieve the highest levels of success in the areas of improved patient care and disease research.”

Committee Action: H. Res. 448 was introduced on June 27, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.R. 970 — Dextromethorphan Distribution Act of 2007 (Upton, R-MI)

Order of Business: H.R. 970 is expected to be considered on Monday, October 15 2007, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 970 would amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to put restrictions on the distribution of Dextromethorphan (DXM), making it a violation of the

Act to possess, receive, or distribute any “unfinished” DXM (“unfinished” usually refers to bulk powdered form of the raw product). H.R. 970 would restrict the distribution, receipt, and possession of unfinished DXM to certain entities registered with the Secretary of Health and Human Services. H.R. 970 also deems adulterated DXM a violation of the new requirements.

In addition, this bill prohibits a person from distributing unfinished DXM to any person other than a registered person. H.R. 970 excludes from such prohibitions common carriers that possess, receive, or distributed unfinished DXM between registered persons.

Background: Dextromethorphan (DXM) is an active ingredient found in over-the-counter cold and cough medications and is subject to abuse by some individuals. It is a semi synthetic narcotic and found in any cold medicine with "DM" or "Tuss" in the title or name. Recent reports indicate that a powdered form of DXM is available on the Internet, along with websites informing young users to drink large amounts of cough syrup in order to absorb enough DXM required for intoxication.

Committee Action: H.R. 970 was introduced on February 8, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On September 27, 2007, the Committee on Energy and Commerce reported the bill, amended, by a voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayer: CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 970 would cost less than \$500,000 in 2008 and about \$11 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts. According to the CBO, enacting the bill could affect direct spending and revenues, but such estimates would not be significant. In addition, there is the possibility of collecting criminal fines from those prosecuted and convicted of violating the bill’s new requirements involving.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, H.R. 970 requires that people receiving, possessing, or distributing unfinished DXM to register with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? Yes, H.R. 970 would impose a mandate on the private sector by requiring people receiving, possessing, or distributing unfinished DXM to register with the Secretary of Health and Human Services. In addition, it would require that it be the duty of the person selling unfinished DXM to confirm that the buyer is also registered with HHS.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report was available at press time.

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H.R. 507 — Vision Care for Kids Act of 2007
(Green, D-TX)

Order of Business: H.R. 507 is expected to be considered on Monday, October 15 2007, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 507 allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to award grants to states to:

- provide comprehensive eye examinations by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist for children identified by a licensed health care provider or vision screener, with priority to children under age nine;
- provide treatment or services to correct vision problems of such children; and
- develop and disseminate educational materials on recognizing signs of visual impairment in children.

H.R. 507 requires that in order for a state to be eligible to receive a grant, they must submit an application containing the following information:

- information on existing Federal, Federal-State, or State-funded children's vision programs;
- a plan for the use of grant funds, including how funds will be used to complement existing State efforts (including possible partnerships with non-profit entities);
- a plan to determine if a grant eligible child has been identified; and
- a description of how funds will be used to provide items or services, only as a secondary payer for an eligible child (the child cannot be covered for the items or services under any state compensation program, under an insurance policy, or under any Federal or State health benefits program).

In addition, H.R. 507 requires that evaluations be used to determine the eligibility of states to receive a grant. H.R. 507 requires that a state must submit evaluation of the operations and activities carried out under the grant, including:

- an assessment of the utilization of vision services and the status of children receiving these services as a result of the activities carried out under the grant;
- the collection, analysis, and reporting of children's vision data according to guidelines prescribed by the Secretary; and
- such other information as the Secretary may require.

H.R. 507 authorization “such sums” as may be necessary for each of FY 2008 through FY 2012.

Committee Action: H.R. 507 was introduced on January 17, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On September 27, 2007, the Committee on Energy and Commerce reported the bill, amended, by a voice vote.

Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that this bill authorizes “such sums” for the creation of a new grant program. In addition, some conservatives

may be concerned with the additional spending for Medicaid caused by additional eye examinations under this bill.

Cost to Taxpayer: According to the CBO, H.R. 507 would authorize the appropriation of \$65 million over the FY 2009 to FY 2013 period. “Based on historical patterns of spending for similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 507 would cost \$38 million over the 2009-2012 period and \$65 million over the 2009-2017 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amount. In addition to those discretionary costs, CBO estimates that the additional eye examinations resulting from H.R. 507 would lead to some additional spending for Medicaid, which pays for vision services for eligible children. Any such increase in Medicaid spending would depend upon future appropriations for the CDC grant program.”

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, it authorizes a new grant program to increase examinations of children for vision problems, arrange for treatment of any problems detected, and conduct education to promote detection of vision disorders.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report was available at press time.

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